

condition of the left bank of the Rhine to France and the creation of a greater Serbia, including what is now the Austrian province of Bosnia.

Von Bethmann-Hollweg said he recognized the fact that some people in foreign countries were inclined to look at the situation sensibly. But these, he said, are in the minority and their voices go unheard, like those of certain members of the English House of Lords.

"But the enemies' theories have lost force," he said. "The people have ceased speaking about the war lasting twenty years. The pretext that they are waging war for the protection of small countries has lost its persuasive power since the recent events in Greece. Small countries are in a severe plight since England is fighting."

The Chancellor discussed the principle of nationalities as applied by Germany's enemies and asked whether the English Colonial Secretary knew that of the 1,000,000 inhabitants of Alsace more than 87 per cent speak German as their mother tongue.

He asked whether Poland by right of nationality belongs to Russia. He demanded to know whether the same principle applied by England in the case of Alsace loses power when applied to India and Egypt.

INVENTED STARVATION STORY.

Germany's enemies, Von Bethmann-Hollweg said, had blinded themselves at the beginning of the war by false stories about Germany.

Now, after military and diplomatic defeats, they are only able to cling to the idea of Germany's annihilation. For this purpose they invented the starvation story.

"We all agree," he said, emphatically, "that our foodstuffs are sufficient and that the only important question is that of distribution. The great economic unit stretching from Arras into Mesopotamia cannot be crushed."

CHANCELLOR'S TALK ABOUT BALKAN SITUATION.

The Chancellor spoke of the situation in the Balkans. The entire powers, he said, had tried to persuade Bulgaria by liberal offers of neutral and Austrian territory to join them.

"But the Bulgarian government has refused the promise he gave after the second Balkan war in which Bulgaria bore the brunt of battle and was then deserted by Russia," he said. "Serbia then received a reward from Russia because her vanguard advanced against Austria-Hungary, but no Bulgarian flag flew over the conquered Bulgarian soil. Serbia is crushed. One more small country is sacrificed for the interests of the allies."

The Chancellor mentioned the attempts of the Allies to regulate the Balkan position through threats of violence against Greece.

"Those who used the pretext that they are making war against Prussian militarism now threaten the Greek Government with the power of the English navy," he said. "This attitude makes it impossible for the allies to continue the Belgian campaign. Why did not the Westminster Gazette not do this at the beginning?"

"On the other hand, the world would have heard the truth."

The Chancellor said the Germans now hold advanced strategic lines in Russia and that despite their numerical superiority the Anglo-French troops have been unable to break the German front in the west.

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RUSSIANS CAPTURE ENTIRE STAFF OF GERMAN DIVISION

Scouts Make a Daring Raid on Headquarters Under Cover of Darkness.

TWO GENERALS CAUGHT

German Cavalry Foiled in an Effort to Rescue the Captured Officers.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 9.—(Via London.)—The entire staff of the Eighty-second German Army Division was captured by Russian mounted scouts and brought as prisoners into the Russian lines as the result of a daring night raid recently, according to unofficial accounts which have just been received.

Under cover of darkness, a small company of scouts worked its way past the German trenches towards the German base. Emerging from a wood, the scouts found themselves close to a village. They stopped and sent forward a reconnoitering party.

The latter soon came upon a German sentry who gave the alarm. Ten minutes later a German cavalry squadron galloped out of the village, followed by two companies of Austrian Landsturm troops. The Russians dismounted and concealed themselves.

The Germans and Austrians fell into the ambush and became panic-stricken when the Russians opened fire, the Austrians running for their lives and throwing down their rifles.

The German cavalry, not knowing how large a force might be opposing them, also retreated, many troops falling under the Russian fire.

The Russians were ordered to follow on foot into the village. On approaching a mansion, they saw through the windows figures of German officers. Half of the force of scouts made for the mansion.

A rush for the doors of the mansion was made by ten Cossacks. They were so quick that the German officers did not have time to secure their coats and furs before they were hustled outside.

The mansion proved to be a division staff headquarters. The scouts secured valuable papers. The whole incident took place in less than fifteen minutes.

With their prisoners, the scouts began to retire. The German cavalrymen mean while had reformed and attempted to cut off the Russian retreat. The prisoners were sent back under convoy and the retreat covered by the bulk of the scouts, who re-occupied in returning to the Russian lines with small losses.

It is stated that the captured staff included two Generals, one being a Division Commander, seven staff officers and several Red Cross physicians. One Colonel was killed in attempting to escape.

When the committee met this afternoon William C. Banks was recalled to the stand. Mr. Banks said he was willing to sign a waiver of immunity, and Counsel Lewis, after taking his signature, announced that his testimony might be needed in any civil or criminal proceeding. Banks nodded.

He said he bought the Northwestern Construction Company from P. Erskine Wood, giving him the \$1,000 cash in bank belonging to the concern. At the time he bought the company's good will and patent rights. He agreed to turn over all outstanding claims, receivable to P. Erskine Wood. The planned a payment of \$450 to him a few weeks after the sale of the company.

He recalled that "a man named Fuhrer" had lent him \$500 cash when he was buying the company. He paid it back a few months later. Fuhrer is employed in the office of D. W. Ross, purchasing agent of the Interborough. Banks couldn't remember Fuhrer's first name, but "thought they called him Mike."

DOESN'T EXPLAIN HIS BIG JUMP IN BUSINESS.

"Do you borrow money only from men employed by companies in which you do business?" asked Counsel Lewis.

"Why—no—oh, no!" exclaimed Banks. He couldn't explain why his company's business had jumped from \$848 during July to \$4,516 in December. He emphatically denied that he knew of any other commissions. The entries in his books of these payments in the "commissions accounts" was all a mistake, he said.

Banks after much fencing admitted that he met E. J. Delaney at No. 1 Day Street last evening after leaving the investigation.

Q. How have you known him? A. Six or seven years. We're pals.

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New Pantalette Skating Costume That Promises to Become Popular



(C) UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD.

OSCAR S. STRAUS SUCCEEDS M'CALL AS P. S. BOARD HEAD

(Continued from First Page.)

ection with a local railroad contract is to-day engaging the attention of the Thompson committee, which is investigating the Public Service Company. That the money was passed is known to Senator Thompson. He also knows the intermediary, and expects he will tell how it was divided.

He proposes to stay here until all the truth about it is revealed.

Subpoenas are out for several prominent men whose evidence is expected to be of the highest importance. District Attorney Perkins is being kept informed of all developments, and it may be stated that they relate to very serious offenses.

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U. S. STEAMSHIPS ARE SEARCHED BY FRENCH CRUISER

Four German Firemen Are Taken From Porto Rico Liner.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Dec. 9.—The Porto Rico liner Coamo was stopped this morning by the French cruiser Descartes, which took four German firemen from the merchantman on board the warship. The officers, crew and all the passengers were examined.

It is reported that the Descartes was looking for Waldemar Hepp, German Consul at San Juan and John Stubbs, the Austrian Consul, who are now in New York.

Chief Steward Schade of the Porto Rico liner Carolina was taken from that vessel last night.

The Coamo and the Carolina are American steamships owned by the New York and Porto Rico Steamship Company. The Coamo was bound for San Juan from New York, having left that port on December 4. The Carolina arrived at San Juan December 1 and was to have sailed thence for Ponce.

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